

## Purpose and Scope of the Sourcebook

This sourcebook is a companion to the *Director's Order on Park Planning* (DO-2) and its attached program standards. The purpose of this sourcebook is to provide specific methods, tools, and pointers about how to produce the plans and meet the standards directed by DO-2.

The focus of this sourcebook is on general management planning, along with some information on park strategic planning and annual performance planning. Additional information on implementation planning will be released as it is produced by the various program managers. Coordinating and integrating all the various types of park planning, as stated in DO-2, is essential.

DO-2 requires that each general management plan (GMP) for a park clearly state (1) its legislatively established mission, and (2) specific management prescriptions for each park area, including desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, along with appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and development for each prescription. This sourcebook recommends 11 steps to follow in developing a GMP. The recommended steps provide detailed information about methods and tools, pointers, and examples to help guide planning teams through a new process. (A key to the 11 steps is included on the back cover of the sourcebook.) Details about each step are found in the corresponding tabbed sections of the sourcebook.

None of the approaches outlined here is mandatory. Planning teams may tailor their approach to meet their specific needs so long as the resulting plan meets the policy and program standards outlined in DO-2 and its attachment. However, following these steps will result in a more consistent approach to presenting the information required in GMPs.

Because the focus of park planning under DO-2 has been changed, only a few GMPs following the new model have been produced. As additional plans are produced, examples will be added to the sourcebook. Also, the methods, tools, and pointers will be continuously expanded as the NPS planners gain additional experience and expertise with the new model. The most current version of the sourcebook will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/planning>.

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